

I believe today's bill helps achieve that goal and I look forward to prompt approval of this measure in the Committee on Ways and Means.

150 YEARS OF PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 1995

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, this Saturday, February 18, 1995 marks the 150th Annual Greenport Fire Department Celebration. Eastern Long Island is proud of the many years of dedicated service by the 190 volunteers of the Greenport Fire Department, and it is an honor to tell my colleagues in the House about their big day on Saturday. These volunteers are the essence of good citizenship, ready with a helping hand no matter how large the task. Organized in 1845, the department was formed after incorporation of the Village of Greenport and it represents all that is good about Greenport. Today, it is always on call for fires and local disasters. Since the village of Greenport is a waterfront community, the men and women of the department are also well skilled at emergency evacuation. Their selfless work as volunteers has been the backbone of the entire community. The department has held an annual celebration for 150 years, and it includes the inspection of members and equipment, parade, tournament, and firemen's ball.

I take this opportunity to salute the wonderful volunteers of the Greenport Fire Department and extend the respect of the whole community.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR ROBERT PRESLEY 36TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT—RIVERSIDE, CA

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 1995

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I take to the floor of the House today to praise a great legislator, a lifelong public servant, a combat veteran, and a personal friend. It may come as a surprise to those listening here in Washington, DC, but I am talking about one man—Senator Robert Presley of Riverside, CA.

Senator Presley represented the 36th State senatorial district of the great State of California. He was first elected to the senate in 1974. To give an idea of the span of his career, I note that I have staff in my office who were just learning to walk then, a first-class stamp cost about 15 cents, and the State budget was at the incredible level of \$20 billion.

Having graduated from the FBI Academy, Senator Presley went on to a successful career in law enforcement. He maintained that interest in protecting and serving the public in the senate by concentrating on anticrime legislation, prison construction, and child-protective services. Though that is not all, Mr. Speaker. Bob authored major legislation on clean air, wildlife conservation, toxic-materials control, education reform, attorney discipline, parks and recreation, and domestic violence.

Known as one of the hardest-working legislators, Senator Presley's committee service was comprehensive. He was chairman of the senate appropriations committee and the senate select committee on children and youth. He served on and was chairman of the senate natural resources and wildlife committee. He sat on the judiciary local government and agriculture and water resources committees. He also headed the joint committee on prison construction and operations. Not only did Bob work hard, he worked openly and fairly with all, regardless of party affiliation. He was, and is, interested in the improvement of California as his first, second and third priorities.

Knowing that the wellspring of leadership is found in the local community, Bob is a member of the Riverside Lions, Elks and Moose lodges, American Legion, Air Force Association, and VFW.

Mr. Speaker, people here in Washington will often be introduced as the member from the "great State of California." Yet, who is it that makes California great? Who is it that makes our State that wonderful place in which we want to raise our families, grow our businesses, build our dreams.

It is citizen leaders like Bob Presley who consistently listen and learn, and then lead our communities to reach their full potential. It is the personal friend who without regard to mere party, will gladly and fruitfully guide younger politicians and community leaders. It is the decorated combat veteran who returns victorious, only to dedicate himself to keeping the peace at home. It is the enlightened legislator who serves his fellow citizens for two decades in the senate. It is Senator Robert Presley, a true original who is worthy of the sincerest form of flattery—imitation. Fortunately, we will still enjoy the expertise and concern of Senator Presley. He is now affiliated with our wonderful University of California, Riverside. We all look forward to working with Bob in this next chapter of his public service.

Thank you Bob for all you've done and the example you've set. All of your neighbors and fellow citizens owe you more than we can say.

VOICE OF AMERICA ANNIVERSARY

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 1995

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, on February 24th the Voice of America begins its 54th year on the world's airwaves. From its first broadcast in 1942—begun with the words "The news may be good; the news may be bad. We shall tell you the truth—through to today, VOA has been a beacon of hope and constant source of reliable information to people around the world.

The past year was no exception. From Rwanda to Haiti, Bosnia to Chechnya, Washington Beijing, and from Northridge to Kobe, the Voice of America was there providing a uniquely American perspective in 47 languages. The year also saw the important new connection of VOA and the Internet.

VOA is still needed as democratization unevenly proceeds in several countries. The world is smaller than ever for those on the information superhighway. While CNN reaches some parts of the world, it does not reach

VOA listeners—in places such as Chechnya, Rwanda, Iraq, Iran, Tibet, Nigeria, China, Burma, and North Korea—who don't understand English, have no access to cable or satellite TV, the Internet or fax machines, or for whom democracy remains only a dream.

VOA reaches these people every day, some 100 million each week, in their homes and in their languages. As they have since 1942, these listeners tune in for news of the United States, clear explanations of its policies and information about their own countries. VOA broadcasts are valuable proponents of our democratic values reaching people with the story of America and our own struggle for democracy. These broadcasts are a way to try to promote peaceful solutions through information and bridging of cultures.

Listeners have told VOA that they want practical "how to" advice on grass roots democracy, the free market economy, and the protection of human rights as they nurture their own fledgling democracies. VOA has responded. These are staples of its programming, along with science and health, agriculture, American society and culture, and the enormously popular English teaching programs. And VOA is a promoter of free enterprise, free trade and tourism, in the United States. It reports every day about American products and services.

In an era of turbulence, where the world is torn by ethnic and religious and nationalistic hatred, there is a need for an honest and credible voice of sanity and reason.

At our best that can be our voice. At our best that is the voice of America. I salute the Voice of America as it begins year 54.

CONGRATULATIONS NICHOLE HOLMES, MISS USA SECOND RUNNER-UP

HON. GLENN POSHARD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 1995

Mr. POSHARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Nichole Lynn Holmes of Marion, Illinois. Nichole was named second runner-up in the 1995 Miss USA Pageant which was held in South Padre Island, Texas. One of twelve finalists, Nichole was selected by a panel of celebrity judges from the fields of acting, athletics and psychology. The judges saw what people in Marion have known for years: Nichole is a talented young woman from whom we will hear great things in the future.

Nichole is a graduate of Marion High School, John A. Logan College, and presently attends Southern Illinois University at Carbondale. The people of southern Illinois are proud to have one of the area's best and brightest represent the entire state in this prestigious event. Since being crowned Miss Illinois USA on November 27, 1994, she has been busy fulfilling the duties of her position and preparing for the 1995 Miss USA pageant. Obviously the long hours of preparation and dedication to achieving her goals have paid off for Nichole and her family. She has accomplished this with the continued love and support of her parents, Lynn and Mikie Holmes, who are understandably proud of with Nichole's achievements.